



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

drainage basin), in being subject to extreme fluctuations in quantity and constitution, and in containing no species peculiar to it.—J. M. C.

Floral mechanism

Such is the title of a work whose first part has just appeared.⁵ In this part twelve types of common spring flowers are selected, all of which are readily cultivated and may thus be kept under continued observation. In the case of each one of these flowers there is a full account of all the details of structure and the problems presented. A definite scheme of work is elaborated, so that in due order all questions are raised and answered. The work is intended for botanical students, teachers of elementary botany, "lovers of flowers," and candidates for examination.

A single example, selected at random, will illustrate the scheme. Under *Viola odorata* the following topics are presented: history, distribution, nomenclature, description, variations, floral diagram, sectional elevation, development, special mechanism, pollination, cleistogamy, monstrosities, fruit and seed, comparison of allied types, theoretical considerations, and note on Fibonacci phyllotaxis systems. All this is illustrated by five plates, three of them colored.

The large page and handsome type are exceedingly attractive, and the colored plates are as fine as we have seen. In short, the whole appearance of the book is ornate. But still, we wonder at its purpose. The author explains this as follows: "The general idea has been the provision of a methodical framework for the inclusion of all facts of observation and experiment, which may serve as an introductory scheme admitting of progressive elaboration and perfection with the attainment of new information." This sounds as if there was a pedagogical motive; but if it is for the teaching of botany, the tremendous emphasis laid upon a few "type" flowers is something new or something very old; at least it holds no relation to botany as at present developed. If it is a scientific treatise, which the author disclaims, it is too simple and diffuse. If it is for ornament, it is a great success. If it is to give opportunity for the display of admirable printing and three-color work, we have seen nothing better.—J. M. C.

MINOR NOTICES

Kew Index.—The third supplement to this invaluable work has appeared,⁶ including names and synonyms of all genera and species from the beginning of 1901 to the end of 1905. The second supplement, which appeared in 1904, and included names through 1900, was under the direction of W. T. THISELTON-

⁵ CHURCH, ARTHUR HARRY, Types of floral mechanism; a selection of diagrams and descriptions of common flowers, arranged as an introduction to the systematic study of angiosperms. I. Types I–XII (Jan. to April). Royal 4to. pp. vii + 211, with 39 colored plates and numerous figs. Oxford: Clarendon Press. 1908. \$6.75.

⁶ Index Kewensis plantarum phanerogamarum. Supplementum tertium. pp. 193. Oxford: Clarendon Press. 1907. 28s.